

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Office Report



Volume 1, Number 5

A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: MAY 24, 2004 TO JULY 12, 2004

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or Sanctuary) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline of 276 miles and 5,322 square nautical miles of ocean.

Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. The MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education and public use of this national treasure.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS

Return to Titanic

On June 9, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, in collaboration with the Institute for Exploration and Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office, hosted a live broadcast with Ballard's research team during their "Return to Titanic" expedition on the NOAA R/V *Ronald H. Brown*. Current and potential Channel Islands telepresence partners were shown the live "Return to Titanic" program in order to see the quality of video and degree of interactivity afforded by telepresence. The goals were to showcase telepresence technology, introduce and highlight the future of Channel Islands Telepresence at Anacapa Island and participate in a brief survey related to the quality of audio/video during the live broadcast.

Underwater Geodetic Marker

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the chair for the White House's Council on Environmental Quality conducted a scuba dive June 17, 2004, to place the nation's first underwater geodetic marker at a coral reef in NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. They were joined by the director of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, and a marine biologist with the Florida Keys Sanctuary responsible for spearheading the restoration of the reef. The marker was installed at Molasses Reef off Key Largo the site of a major ship grounding that destroyed more than 5,000 meters of living corals in 1984. After years of careful, painstaking work, NOAA and partners succeeded in putting the reef on the road to recovery. Together with a highly visible surface buoy, the geodetic marker will serve as a navigational aid to boaters and divers. The marker will also allow researchers to precisely monitor the recovery of the reef over time. The story received extensive print and broadcast media coverage.

National Remotely Operated Vehicle Competition

The Marine Advanced Technology Education Center's National Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) competition took place in Santa Barbara on June 25-27. This year's competition scenario, which National Marine Sanctuary Program staff helped to develop, is based on a fictitious wreck in a sanctuary. Numerous sanctuary education staff helped mentor teams and conducted workshops in support of schools participating in this year's competition and were on hand to judge and observe the competition. Dan Basta was a featured speaker of the opening ceremonies on June 25th.

Researchers Plan August Hunt for Invasive Lionfish off Carolina Coast

NOAA scientists will lead a diving expedition off the North Carolina coast August 2-20 to learn more about a venomous predatory fish whose population appears to be growing in waters along Florida, North Carolina and Bermuda. The Indo-Pacific lionfish, Pterois volitans, over the past four years established itself as the first Pacific marine fish known to populate Atlantic waters, particularly around reefs off the southeast United States. An aquarium fish popular for its brilliant colors, the venomous lionfish most likely was introduced to Atlantic waters by intentional or unintentional releases from aquariums.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

Channel Islands NMS

The Ocean Channel and Santa Barbara Channel Keeper presented the first annual Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival on May 19, 2004 at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Co-sponsors of the Ocean Film Festival were the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, UCSB's Marine Science Institute, PADI Project Aware, Islands Packers and La Cusinga EcoLodge in Costa Rica. The National Marine Sanctuary Program was prominently featured throughout the Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival, by featuring John Brooks' short vignette on cultural connections, the 60-second Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary PSA, and a 3-minute high definition piece by In Camera introducing the "Jewels of the Pacific: California's Channel Islands" film project.

Florida Keys NMS

The sanctuary is gearing up for a coral transplantation cooperative partnering project with the U.S. Navy, their contractors (Continental Shelf Associates) and REEF MEDIC volunteers, to relocate and re-attach corals displaced by a Navy development project in Truman Harbor and Key West Harbor. Plans are underway for fieldwork to start in early June due to weather delays. Transplant recipient sites include the *Columbus Iselin* restoration site, multiple orphan vessel grounding sites throughout the sanctuary, and mid-channel reefs off Key West and Stock Island.

Flower Garden Banks NMS

The hydrographic survey-cruise aboard the NOAA vessel *Thomas Jefferson* conducted May 12 - 21 was a resounding success. Weather was good and multibeam mapping was conducted in a number of areas within and near the sanctuary. Areas in between the East and West Flower Garden Banks, shelf slope features south of the sanctuary, and Claypile Bank north of the sanctuary were mapped with multibeam for the first time. High-resolution multibeam (Reson 8125) surveys were conducted of the coral reef areas of both Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank. Additionally, a tour of the ship for interested parties was conducted in Galveston on May 21.

Gray's Reef NMS

The sanctuary convened the first of two workshops to examine the concept of a marine research area in the sanctuary. The workshop brought together broad interests (fishing, diving, research, education, and regional planning) as a working group of the Advisory Council. The idea of marine research in the sanctuary was first raised during scoping meetings for the review and revision of the management plan. Headquarters and Florida Keys staff are assisting the working group, which is chaired by Advisory Council member Dr. Joe Kimmel of the Southeast Regional Office of NOAA Fisheries.

Monitor NMS

From May 17 to 21, The Mariners' Museum conservators and a team of riggers from Northrup Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding removed a large spreader plate, two of the gun slides and the port cannon carriage from the *Monitor*'s gun turret. Because of the uncertainty of the condition of the gun carriage, the work proceeded with the utmost caution. The spreader plate and gun slides came out with ease, but the gun carriage required a lot of coaxing to loosen it from the 11-inch Dahlgren cannon barrel. The carriage was successfully freed from the cannon and placed in a conservation tank.

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands NMS

On June 2, staff from Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve were guests on Hawaii Public Radio's "Think Tech Hawaii" program. This one-hour live broadcast focused on technology and maritime archaeology in the Pacific. NOAA's role as the sole agency actively involved in maritime heritage management in Hawaii was highlighted. Featured projects included the *in situ* study of the Japanese midget sub near Pearl Harbor, the *USS Saginaw* at Kure Atoll, and the ongoing search for Amelia Earhart's crash site near Howland Island. Heritage preservation as a part of stewardship and ocean awareness was emphasized. This show will be available on http://thinktechhawaii.com



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary News and Program Updates



JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Staff is continuing work on writing the draft management plan. This includes estimating the budgets, timelines and performance indicators for each of the action plans. The MBNMS staff has completed work with NMSP headquarters on identifying the proposed regulatory changes associated with some of the action plans. We are pleased that the environmental review contract is finalized and work underway, we expect to begin our headquarters clearance process in November. At this time, the MBNMS is estimating the release of these documents in early 2005 with public hearings in late spring.

If you have questions regarding management plan, please contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217 or sean.morton@noaa.gov. Also, please visit the management plan website at http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan for any changes or updates on the joint management plan review.

MANAGEMENT

During the week of May 17th, Rachel Saunders, MBNMS Community and Public Relations Coordinator, working with Sarah Marquis and David Hall, submitted 3 MBNMS media items for HQ clearance: a press release announcing the launch of the summer 2004 TeamOCEAN Kayaker Outreach Program; a press release announcing the appointment of new Sanctuary Advisory Council members and the election of new officers; and a media advisory on the June 5th Fishermen's Fiesta which the MBNMS is co-sponsoring with the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, the City of Monterey, the Monterey History and Art Association and NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training Program. For more information, contact Rachel Saunders at (831) 647-4237.

On June 24-25, Andrew DeVogelaere and Dave Lott participated in bid reviews at WASC. Contracts are being developed to build sanctuary boats for the MBNMS and SBNMS. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere, Research Coordinator, at (831) 647-4213.

On June 24, MBNMS Internship Coordinator, Karen Grimmer, provided an orientation to six new college interns who will be working with the sanctuary over the summer. The interns are affiliated with three academic institutions, including CSU Monterey Bay, Monterey Institute of International Studies, and UC San Diego, and they will be working with staff mentors to accomplish projects such as the Investigation of Newly Emerging Sanctuary Resource Protection Issues, Marine Debris and Abandoned Fishing Gear Retrieval and Sampling Water Quality for the Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, as described on the MBNMS intern web page http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/internships/welcome.html. For more information, please contract Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253.

MBNMS hosted two separate visits from NOAA Assistant Administrators, Richard Spinrad on July 1 and Mary Glackin on July 6. Staff highlighted the process and issues of the Joint Management Plan Review, and ongoing efforts of our research, education and resource protection programs. The MBNMS also organized and hosted a media roundtable for NOAA Assistant Administrator Richard Spinrad. Reporters from the Monterey Herald, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Monterey County Weekly, Santa Cruz Good Times, and the San Luis Obispo Tribune attended. The roundtable generated newspaper articles in the Herald and Sentinel. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247 or Rachel Saunders at (831) 647-4237.

On July 7, MBNMS staff held an All Hands Staff Retreat at Adventures By the Sea, in Monterey. The retreat focused on the implementation of JMPR Action Plans, implementation across departments and FY05 AOP development. The afternoon consisted of team building activities led by Michelle Knight of Adventures By the Sea. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

Holly Price participated in the West Coast regional managers meeting in San Francisco on July 6 to discuss goals and structure of a regional approach and funding priorities for FY05. For more information, contact (831) 647-4247.

Business and Tourism Activity Panel

On May 19, 2004 the Business and Tourism Activity Panel (BTAP) met at the Santa Cruz County Conference and Visitors Council. The BTAP is one of the official working groups of the MBNMS Advisory Council. Discussion items included BTAP membership, recruitment strategies, and goals for future meetings. The BTAP also received an update on the status of the MBNMS Exploration Center. For more information, contact Rachel at (831) 647-4237.

On July 6 the MBNMS hosted a subcommittee meeting of the Business and Tourism Activity Panel, a working group of the MBNMS Advisory Council. The subcommittee was organized to assist in the planning of business/sanctuary workshops to be held later this year. The workshops will focus on developing collaborative partnerships with the tourism sector of the business community and helping to identify tools, products, approaches of mutual benefit. For more information, contact Rachel Saunders at (831) 647-4237.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

The first meeting of the joint National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Prevention Committee took place May 4, 2004 at the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary SIMoN Scientist Steve Lonhart and one NOAA Fisheries scientist represented NOAA on the Committee, which included representatives from US Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, USGS, APHIS, and the State Department. The three main tasks were to 1) review and approve the roles and responsibilities of Committee members, 2) identify Prevention Committee member's responsibilities to each of the five working groups, and 3) discuss actions required to start the working groups within the next 1 to 2 months. For more information, contact Steve at (831) 647-4222.

Research and management staff from MBNMS and GFNMS met on May 18 and June 18 in San Francisco to plan collaborative research projects in the Northern Management Area (NMA) of the MBNMS, and beyond that geographic scope. A presentation was given on the SIMoN (Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network) program and GFNMS staff are interested in pursuing development of SIMoN efforts in their region. Moreover, lists of ongoing and future research for the NMA area were discussed. Planning documents based on this meeting will be developed to further enhance research and monitoring between these two Sanctuaries. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere, Research Coordinator, at (831) 647-4213.

From June 2-9, 2004 the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's *R/V SHEARWATER* operated in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The vessel served as a research platform for diving operations along the Big Sur coast in central California. Divers collected data as part of a marine resource assessment at sites with and without recent landslide activity. After three days in Big Sur, diving operations were moved to Monterey Bay. Divers then spent two days characterizing invertebrate and algae assemblages used by rockfishes. With funds from the National Undersea Research Program (NURP), Dr. Craig Syms uses telemetry to investigate the movement patterns of nearshore rockfishes. The final two days were spent collecting monitoring data on invertebrates, algae, and fishes at two sites being studied by the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO). For more information, please contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN Scientist at (831) 647-4222.

On June 17, 2004 SIMoN Scientist Steve Lonhart collected samples of the invasive alga *Undaria pinnatifida* with a visiting scholar from Japan and his assistant. Taiju Kitayama is a senior curator in the Department of Botany at the National Museum of Science in Tokyo, Japan. He is currently a visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley and has been collecting museum samples of *Undaria* and other brown algae from central and southern California. For more information, please contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

NOAA Dive Center, Seattle, provided excellent assistance to the MBNMS in recruiting a NOAA Dive Master on short notice to supervise a NOAA sponsored nine-day research diving project from the *R/V SHEARWATER* along the remote Big Sur Coast. The primary dive master for the mission was injured during the final planning phase for the project and an immediate replacement was required. Stephanie Holzwarth from the NMFS Lab in Hawaii volunteered to fill the vacancy for the entire research cruise. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

Research Activities Panel

The MBNMS Research Activity Panel met at the NMFS Santa Cruz Laboratory on May 14. The meeting included presentations on the interactions between wild and hatchery anadromous fishes and on the status of the California Coastal National Monument. Other agenda topics included a debriefing on the NOAA Ship McArthur II Sanctuary cruise and NOAA ship time allocation procedures. For more information, contact MBNMS Research Coordinator Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

A CBNMS-GFNMS-MBNMS jointly hosted Research Activity Panel meeting was held in Half Moon Bay on July 9. The focus of the meeting was on integrating Central California Ocean Observing efforts, and there was participation from the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), Coastal Ocean Current Monitoring Program (COCMP), California Integrated Coastal Observatory Research and Education (CICORE), Center for Marine Technology (CIMT), Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN), and the new Sanctuary Program West Coast Observatory Program (no acronym yet!). For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

SIMoN

On May 12, SIMoN Scientist Dr. Steve Lonhart was a guest lecturer at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The lecture was given to 20 upper division undergraduate students enrolled in a course on Community Ecology. Dr. Lonhart discussed how invasive species can impact native communities, including how some invaders facilitate the successful establishment of other invasive species. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

Steve Lonhart, SIMoN Scientist, helped train SCUBA divers to collect invertebrate and algae data using PISCO (Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans) protocols. Chad King, SIMoN Data Analyses Specialist, and Josh Pederson, SIMoN Outreach Specialist, also participated in this training, which occurred from June 21 - 25. For more information, contact Chad King at (831) 647-4248.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Deirdre Hall, Permit Coordinator, organized a meeting with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) on May 17th to discuss general permit issues and to receive a briefing on their carbon dioxide project. The MBNMS intends to issue MBARI a 5-year research permit in 2005. MBNMS staff identified information needs for this future evaluation and MBARI was amenable to them. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at deirdre.hall@noaa.gov

On June 3, Environmental Policy Specialist Huff McGonigal attended a meeting of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary fishing working group to hear a presentation by Ecotrust on fishing related socio-economics on the Central Coast. The MBNMS and the GFNMS have contracted with Ecotrust to gather background data and perform preliminary analyses on fishing effort, locations, participation, and values that will be used to inform sanctuary management and to implement elements of the Joint Management Plan Review. Ecotrust's work will be reviewed by an independent panel of socioeconomic experts in July. For more information, contact Huff at (831) 647-4254.

On June 9th, MBNMS and California State Lands Commission held a public meeting to take formal public comment on a proposal submitted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute to install an advanced cabled observatory on the seafloor within the MBNMS. This proposed research project, known as the Monterey Accelerated Research System (MARS) would be comprised of one science node on 51 kilometers of submarine cable. An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for this project. For more information please contact Deirdre Hall at (831) 647-4207.

Scott Kathey is coordinating with NOAA Damage Assessment Center (DAC) to develop NRDA strategies for addressing vessel casualties and sewage spills within the Sanctuary. MBNMS, NOAA DAC, and GCNR staff will meet June 16-17 to further develop a mini-312 process for these types of incidents. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

From June 7th-9th, Environmental Policy Specialist Huff McGonigal and Research Specialist Erica Burton attended a conference in Long Beach focused on the utility of marine protected areas. The conference is being hosted by the National Fisheries Conservation Center and will seek to bring together scientists from various disciplines to assess the role of MPAs in marine management and conservation. For more information, contact Huff at (831) 647-4254.

On June 9, Scott Kathey gave a presentation to approximately 50 pilots and air crew members at Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento on sensitive coastal resources within their area of operations, including resources within all central coast marine sanctuaries and US Fish and Wildlife Refuges. The presentation was well received. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On June 8, Scott Kathey and Brad Damitz inspected the anchorage of the cruise ship PRIDE OF ALOHA to verify that the ship was anchored in one of two pre-approved anchorage locations after receiving reports that the vessel may be off position. The ship appeared to be in the correct anchorage. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing completion on a Biological Opinion concerning fireworks displays within the MBNMS. MBNMS initiated formal consultation with the Service on this subject in June 2002. The Biological Opinion should be completed by the end of July 2004. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On June 25th, MBNMS staff met with the Santa Cruz Port District Harbormaster to discuss their fall dredging needs. Recently the Port District submitted a request to significantly increase their disposal area. Discussions revolved around the JMPR process, possible future outcomes, and the need for interagency coordination. The MBNMS will be coordinating agency meetings in the near future on behalf of the Port District to examine potential solutions. The Harbor's needs for this coming winter appear to be met. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall, Permit Coordinator at (831) 647-4207 or deirdre.hall@noaa.gov.

The MBNMS submitted a comment letter to the California Coastal Commission regarding a proposed seawall project for the Ocean Harbor House, a condominium development on Del Monte beach that is under a high threat from erosion. The project has received approval by the City of Monterey and will go to the Coastal Commission for final approval in mid-July. The letter stated the sanctuary's opposition to the seawall and our support for the removal and relocation of the seaward condominium units. The seawall would be above Mean High Water, and therefore outside of the MBNMS' jurisdiction. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

Scott Kathey presented a "Star of the Sea" Certificate to Captain Tim Olivas of the CA Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on July 16 for Tim's assistance in establishing and promoting the cooperative enforcement agreement between the MBNMS and CDFG since 1998. Tim has been instrumental in the success of the cooperative enforcement agreement. He is leaving CDFG to accept a command position with the Morro Bay Police Department. For more information, contact Scott at (831) 647-4251.

The Conservation Working Group held its meeting in Cambria on May 18 to expand outreach and coordination with environmental groups in the southern region of the sanctuary. Issues discussed included desalination, Davidson Seamount,

oil and gas development and water quality. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

Desalination

On May 20 at the Monterey Beach Resort, the MBNMS co-hosted with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, a conference about regional desalination issues titled "Be Smart About Desal". The event consisted of 18 well recognized speakers on five panels addressing various topics including: introduction and basics of desalination, case studies, environmental impacts, mitigation measures, regional collaboration, permitting, federal and state perspectives, and local trends and issues. Brad Damitz, Environmental Policy Specialist, gave two presentations throughout the day on existing and proposed facilities in the MBNMS, and the sanctuary's collaborative regional action plan for desalination. The conference was very well received by an audience of around 210 people including: elected officials, desalination plant proponents, federal, state, and local agencies, industry representatives, environmental interests, and the general public. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

On June 1, Brad Damitz, Environmental Policy Specialist, attended a scoping meeting and subsequently submitted a comment letter for the Soquel Creek Water District's Conjunctive Use Water Supply Project. The project includes several alternatives, including a regional desalination plant, to augment the district's water supply. The letter raised the sanctuary's concerns regarding potential impacts to marine resources from desalination, detailed our preference for well-planned regional projects, and identified a number of aspects of the plan that should be addressed in the EIR. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

On June 2, Brad Damitz attended a post-conference meeting of the steering committee for the Desalination Conference held on May 20. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the conference held on May 20th, and to discuss future collaborations and the development of a regional approach for desalination. For more information, contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

Brad Damitz, Environmental Policy Specialist, attended a Coastal Water Project Permit Coordination Center meeting on July 15th. This project, being proposed by California American Water Company and the County of Monterey, would include a large desalination plant to be located adjacent to the Duke Power Plant in Moss Landing, as well as aquifer storage and recovery. The purpose of the meeting was for the proponents to provide details about the proposed project, and seek feedback on initial environmental and regulatory concerns. The meeting was attended by about 50 representatives from a variety of local, state, and federal agencies. For more information, contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

Enforcement

NOAA General Council for Enforcement and Litigation has issued two \$10,000 fines to jointly responsible parties for the grounding of the *S/V WIDELOAD* in July 2003. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

MBNMS Enforcement is investigating an incident involving a truck that left the roadway and tumbled down a coastal cliff into Sanctuary waters near Devil's Slide. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

On May 6, a salmon boat was reportedly struck by a second vessel and sank off Pigeon Point. MBNMS Enforcement is investigating. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

In May 2004, MBNMS Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena received a complaint that two Alaskan huskies attacked a sea otter off Carmel beach within the Sanctuary. The sea otter escaped when a passerby waded into the water and pulled the dogs away. The owner reportedly took no action to retrieve the dogs. The owner was issued a summary settlement by NOAA Enforcement of \$100 and recently paid the fine. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

MBNMS staff assisted the City of Capitola in disposing of a gray whale carcass that had washed into shore at the city beach. The city was authorized to hire a contractor to tow the carcass 10 miles offshore. The gray whale had been killed by orca whales several days earlier.

MBNMS Enforcement investigated a complaint of a low-flying helicopter within the Big Sur Overflight Restriction Zone. NOAA Enforcement sent an educational letter to the appropriate Army command responsible for the overflight. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

MBNMS enforcement has received multiple reports during April and May of low-flying aircraft within restricted areas and of harassment of marine mammals within the Sanctuary. Several people have collected newborn or sick marine mammals and taken them to their residences for "safe keeping". Enforcement action is pending. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

The CA Dept of Fish & Game has drafted plans to reduce its current 7 regional management areas to 4 and restructure its management regime. This could result in diminished coordination support for the Sanctuary's cooperative enforcement agreement with the Department. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On June 10, the 30' *F/V BLUE MERE* ran aground on a sand beach immediately south of Point Ano Nuevo when the operator suffered a diabetic seizure. The operator was rescued, and there were no other people were on board at the time. NOAA Officer Bob Yerena responded. MBNMS passed the case to GFNMS since the grounding occurred in the NMA. The vessel and its fuel were completely recovered by the owner within three days of the incident. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On June 5, a 22-foot pleasure craft sank at a mooring owned by the City of Monterey adjacent to Wharf II. The vessel was refloated intact and removed from the water by harbor officials. There was no spill. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

On June 8, a 20-foot tender from a commercial seiner experienced engine failure and ran aground near the Navy Postgraduate School Beach. There was no spill and the owner recovered the vessel from the beach intact. For more information, contact Enforcement Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

On June 9, a local research institution discovered a 40' intermodal cargo container on the ocean floor 17.5 nm NW of Point Pinos. The container is at a depth of 1281 meters. The container was lost in transit last February and contains a shipment of automobile tires. Fourteen similar containers were lost overboard during the same voyage from Oakland to Los Angeles. The responsible party plans to conduct a survey to determine if the other companion containers may be in the near vicinity. Survey results will help determine the scope of necessary salvage efforts in the Sanctuary and potentially avoid piece-meal salvage efforts in the future. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On June 12, the 58-foot *S/V TINTINARA* began taking on water approximately 12.5 nm NW of Cape San Martin. The crew was taken off the boat by the Coast Guard. A salvage vessel en route to tow the sailboat to port suffered a casualty and had to abort the mission. The Coast Guard conducted an aerial search Sunday afternoon. The vessel possibly sank in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On Friday, July 9, scattered patches of tar patties were discovered on 15 miles of beaches from Moss Landing State Beach to Marina State Beach. The California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) calculated an approximate total of 25 gallons and conducted site specific cleanup efforts. No sheens were detected in nearshore waters. OSPR believes the patties are Monterey formation oil deposits originated from natural seeps. Samples have been collected for analysis. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On Sunday July 11, a partially expended US Navy phosphorous illumination ordinance was discovered on Moss Landing State Beach. An Army bomb disposal team from the Moffett Field Defense Complex, San Francisco used explosives to

destroy the 18" long ordnance device in the backshore dune area near the discovery site. There was no reported impact to Sanctuary resources. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

Water Quality

On May 11, Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, delivered a presentation to 30 students enrolled in an undergraduate marine policy class at the University of California at Santa Cruz. The presentation featured an overview of the MBNMS including key events in its designation and a general overview of MBNMS regulations and program activities. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On May 13, Bridget Hoover, Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network Coordinator, performed a water quality assessment of six out of sixteen streams on the 10,000 acre Palo Corona Ranch. The Palo Corona Ranch, located between the Carmel River and Big Sur river was recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy and Big Sur Land Trust. Ultimately, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District will own the northern half and California Dept. of Fish & Game will own the southern half. They are very interested in working closely with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On May 19, the MBNMS formally commented to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding proposed revisions to the California Ocean Plan. The Ocean Plan establishes water quality objectives for California's ocean waters and provides the basis for regulation of wastes discharged into the State's coastal waters. MBNMS comments were focused on bacterial standards for water quality contact and discharges into State Water Quality Protected Areas. For more information please contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On June 2, Bridget Hoover met with the California Coastal Commission and US EPA Region 9, to discuss participation in a California Nonpoint Source Monitoring Council and Management Program. The mission of the council is to provide a statewide forum for the coordination of consistent and scientifically defensible water quality monitoring and assessment activities. This program is similar to and will enhance the coordination of water quality monitoring that is being developed by the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On June 8, Chris Coburn attended a workshop hosted by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control board to discuss concerns raised by several NGOs and agencies, including the sanctuary, regarding a storm water management program developed by eight Monterey County jurisdictions. The workshop concluded with an agreement by the municipalities to amend the program to address these concerns. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On June 11 and 12, Bridget Hoover and intern Jessica Sharkey attended a Train the Trainers workshop sponsored by the California State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Team. Bridget gave a presentation on citizen water quality monitoring programs within the sanctuary. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On June 9, Katie Siegler, Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator, met with representatives from the Salinas Valley Pressure Group Coalition to plan an outreach meeting for farmers in the Salinas Valley. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss development of an Agricultural Watershed Group that would work cooperatively to address local water quality concerns by increasing water quality protection measures on their properties. For more information, contact Katie Siegler at (831) 647-4219.

On June 22, Bridget Hoover met with staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss Network water monitoring programs and dissemination of Network data on the web. The Network data will be uploaded into the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program database and from there uploaded into the US Environmental Protection Agency STORET database. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On June 24, Bridget Hoover and Citizen Monitoring Network volunteers, manned a table at the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce celebration at Lover's Point. Over 100 local businesses and community members attended the celebration. Network volunteers distributed sanctuary literature and spoke to people about the Urban Watch program. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On July 7, Robert Ketley, contractor to the MBNMS, conducted two workshops designed to educate local agency staff in Monterey County about their role and responsibility in controlling urban stormwater pollution. The first workshop targeted city leaders and agency managers. The second workshop targeted field crews and vehicle maintenance staff. Each workshop was attended by twenty-four individuals and topics included stormwater impacts, Phase II Municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, and best management practice training. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On July 8 and 9, Katie Siegler testified at the State Water Resources Control Board Meeting, representing MBNMS and the Agriculture Waiver Advisory Panel to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Board voted unanimously to adopt a new conditional waiver for agriculture, applicable to six counties, that would require farmers to take water quality education courses, develop water quality management plans for their irrigated operations, implement agricultural BMPs to protect water quality, and participate in regional water quality monitoring. This is the first such regulation in the region, and was developed with over 18 months of stakeholder meetings. For more information, contact Katie Siegler at (831) 647-4219.

Chris Coburn facilitated a meeting of the Water Quality Protection Program Committee on Tuesday, July 13. The meeting featured updates from MBNMS staff and committee members, a presentation by representatives from the Central Coast Wetlands GIS project, and a discussion of the formation of an urban runoff / beach closures sub-committee. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

The fiscal year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 14 includes \$600,000 again this year from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's budget to fund implementation of the Agriculture and Rural Lands plan crafted by the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program. This fourth year of funding for this effort is intended to be distributed among partners at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of California Cooperative Extension, the Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus, and the Sanctuary Foundation to carry out collaborative programs to address runoff of sediments, nutrients and pesticides into the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Katie Siegler at (831) 647-4219.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Paul Chetirkin, Assistant Management Plan Coordinator, began a series of presentations on July 1 to Naval Post-Graduate School students majoring in Oceanography. The presentations offered an overview of the Marine Sanctuaries program, the MBNMS, and the JMPR. Jean De Marignac assisted with a presentation on the SIMoN program. The presentations are scheduled to continue throughout the summer. For more information, contact Paul Chetirkin at (831) 647-4210.

MERITO

During the week of May 17, MERITO staff presented to 17 intermediate/advanced English language learners through the Salinas Adult Education program. The presentations were followed by a demonstration of the watershed model. Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. These presentations are part of MERITO's expansion into the Salinas region in partnership with Salinas Union High School District and Healthy Start. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215

On May 20, MERITO interns facilitated restoration activities on the Struve Slough in Watsonville for ten 6th – 8th grade students enrolled in the MERITO after-school program (Watershed Academy) from Rolling Hills Middle School. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On May 20, MERITO staff and interns hosted a booth at the annual Discovery Science Night at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy in Salinas. The event focused on providing hands-on science activities to inspire parents to encourage and support students to pursue science as a career. MERITO provided information on the MBNMS and hands-on activities related to

watershed and marine conservation. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On May 22, MERITO interns conducted demographic interviews at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. This concludes the series of demographic interviews for spring, which will resume again in fall as part of a long term effort to better understand the demographic visitor-ship of Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. For information on the results of this, and past, demographic interviews contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On June 4, MERITO staff held a graduation ceremony for 10 students enrolled in Rolling Hills Middle School's MERITO "Watershed Academy" after school program in Watsonville. Students were presented diplomas and Threatened and Thriving posters followed by a watershed jeopardy game. For more information contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On June 6, MERITO hosted its first Tidepool Day. Thirty-seven community members from Santa Cruz to Salinas participated in the Spanish bilingual event focused on natural history and conservation of tidepool ecosystems of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Participants were given tidepool exploration and wildlife viewing guidelines before exploring the intertidal with a naturalist guide, and were later provided free passes to Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On June 23, MERITO staff led 15 farmers with the Resource Conservation District and the Agricultural Land Based Training Association on an interpretive tour on the Elkhorn Slough waters. Farmers learned about water quality issues related to urban and agricultural runoff. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On June 30, MERITO staff presented to 24 intermediate/advance English language learners through the Salinas Adult Education program. The presentations were followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration. Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. These presentations are part of MERITO's expansion into the Salinas region in partnership with Salinas Union High School District and Healthy Start. For more information, contact Claudia Pineda, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4212.

On July 2, MERITO staff introduced sanctuary and watershed activities to twenty-one 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. This is the first middle school in the Alisal Union School District now implementing the MERITO watershed and ocean science field-based curriculum. The month long program will provide students with hands-on field experiences related to watershed and marine conservation. Expansion of the MERITO Watershed Academy year-long program to the Salinas region is scheduled for fall of 2004. For more information, contact Claudia Pineda at (831) 647-4212.

MBNMS generated a feature article on MBNMS's MERITO program in the July 5 edition of the Monterey Herald newspaper. Written by a features writer for the Herald, the article highlighted the release of a new bilingual book, Coralito's Bay published by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation. It also provided a great overview of the MERITO program. The article took up three-quarters of the front page of the Life & Times section and includes three images, two of the book and one of a book signing event with the author. For more information, contact Rachel Saunders at (831) 647-4237 or Michele Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On July 6, MERITO staff presented to 14 intermediate/advanced English language learners through the Salinas Adult Education program. The presentations were followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration. Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. These presentations are part of MERITO's expansion into the Salinas region in partnership with Salinas Union High School District and Healthy Start. For more information, contact Claudia Pineda at (831) 647-4212.

During the week of July 6, MERITO staff led two in-class lessons on bird adaptations for fifty-one, 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. The lesson included an introduction to different species of birds and a conservation message on the importance of birds as key indicators of a healthy ecosystem and food chain. For more information, contact Claudia Pineda at (831) 647-4212.

During the week of July 6, MERITO staff led a water quality monitoring activity at Natividad Creek Park with twenty-four, 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. During the activity students learned how to test for dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH and temperature in their local creek. Students also learned about the importance of water quality and ways to help keep their watershed healthy. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On July 7, MERITO staff introduced sanctuary and watershed activities to 51, 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. This is the first middle school in the Alisal Union School District now implementing the MERITO watershed and ocean science field-based curriculum. The month long program will provide students with hands-on field experiences related to watershed and marine conservation. Expansion of the MERITO Watershed Academy yearlong program to the Salinas region is scheduled for fall of 2004. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On July 8, Michelle Templeton joined Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) staff in conducting preliminary interviews for the new MERITO Bilingual Community Liaison position for the CINMS. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

During the week of July 12, MERITO staff led two water quality-monitoring activities at Natividad Creek Park with forty-eight, 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. During the activity students learned how to test for dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH and temperature at their local creek and conducted an aquatic insect surveys to assess the health of their local creek. Students also learned about the importance of water quality and ways to help keep their watershed healthy. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

During the week of July 12, MERITO staff presented to 94 English language learners through the Salinas Adult Education and Pasos al Exito programs. The presentations were followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration. Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. For more information, contact Claudia Pineda at (831) 647-4212.

On July 16 MERITO staff and volunteers participated in Frank Paul Elementary's Strawberry Festival in Salinas. The event was attended by over 480 kindergarten through 6th grade students. MERITO staff provided fun hands on activities and education about watershed and sanctuary protection. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

SIGNIFICANT NEWS COVERAGE

- "Get tough on presenting sewer spills" Monterey County Herald Editorial, 5/19/04
- "Future of desalination focus of seminar in Monterey" by Brian Seals, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 5/16/04
- "Black abalone plague in Cambria; Withering illness could push species to extinction" by David Sneed, San Luis Obispo Tribune
- "All-day workshop set on desalination" Community Calendar, Monterey County Herald, 5/14/04
- "The weight of water; Volunteers from the Coastal Watershed Council wade into the local streams and rivers to monitor the health of the water" by Bruce Willey, The Good Times, 5/13/04
- "Seminar urges regional approach to desal" by Virginia Hennessey, Monterey County Herald, 5/21/04
- "Ocean View Plaza still facing major hurdles" KSBW Channel website, 5/2/04
- "Capitola mayor honored for volunteer work" by Brian Seals, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 6/4/04
- "Marine panel names appointees, Sanctuary Advisory Council plans ceremony today" Monterey County Herald, 6/4/04
- "Researchers want to install power cable in the Monterey Bay" by Brian Seals, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 6/6/04
- "Explorer denounces pillaging of Titanic", Knight Ridder News, Billings Gazette
- "Local tour highlights connections between farming, ocean health" Register-Pajaronian, 6/6/04
- "A mountain of exotic sea life, seamount may be added to marine sanctuary" by David Sneed, San Luis Obispo Tribune, 6/14/04
- "Seamount not one of Morros" by David Sneed, San Luis Obispo Tribune, 6/14/04
- "Farms and fish highlight tour" Santa Cruz Sentinel, 6/23/04
- "Amateur scuba divers can catalog fish for Great Annual Fish Count" Monterey County Herald, 6/22/04
- "Santa Cruz skatepark plans keep rolling along" by Dan White, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 7/1/04
- "Standards needed for desal plants, says federal official; Desalination plants have only been regulated on a case-by-case basis" by Jonathan Segal, Monterey County Herald, 7/2/04
- "Morro Bay opposes expansion of marine sanctuary" Opinion, William Yates, San Luis Obispo Tribune, 6/25/04
- "Cooperation will improve ocean health, official says" by Brian Seals, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 7/4/04
- "Watsonville, here I come" by M.L. Fischer, The Register-Pajaronian, 7/2/04
- "Making the surf a better place" by Adrienne Saxton, Claudine Offer and Shannon Johnson, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 7/4/04

"Two languages, One View: Bilingual Book Explores the Bay" by Kathryn McKenzie Nichols, Monterey County Herald, 7/5/04

"Board will vote on plan for monitoring agriculture runoff" by Virginia Hennessey, Monterey County Herald, 7/9/04

"New rules for Central Coast farmers delayed for lack of quorum" by Brian Seals, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 7/9/04

"Ag runoff monitoring plan gets board OK" by Virginia Hennessey, Monterey County Herald, 7/10/04

"Water wars; Desalination threatens to keep us on escapist path" by Tim Holt, San Francisco Chronicle, 7/11/04



WEB SITE (http://montereybay.noaa.gov/)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the MBNMS web site.

MERITO

http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/merito/welcome.html

News

http://montereybay.noaa.gov/new/welcome.html

Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Comments and suggestions can be sent to andrew.white@noaa.gov.

FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

SIMON

www.mbnms-simon.org

Snapshot Day

http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html

National Marine Sanctuary Program

http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/

NOAA Publications Library

www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/library/library.html

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

http://nerrs.noaa.gov/

NOAA Ocean Explorer

http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/

National Data Buoy Center

http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml

National Ocean Service

http://www.nos.noaa.gov/

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

http://www.noaa.gov/

Tides Online

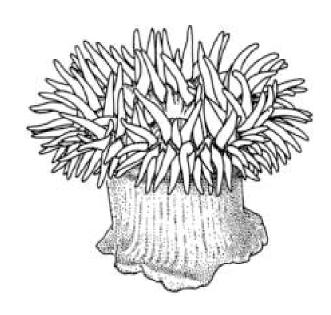
http://tidesonline.noaa.gov/

Nautical Charts

http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/charts.htm

CALENDAR

CALENDAR	
AUGUST	
Aug 6-7	MERITO's Watershed Academy Teacher/Youth Leader Training at Elkhorn Slough NERR from 8 a.m5
	p.m.
Aug 11-22	Delta Cruise
Aug 13	RAP Meeting at Moss Landing Marine Labs
SEPTEMBER	
Sept 10	RAP Meeting at the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Center
Sept 15	BTAP Meeting, 7:30 a.m9:30 a.m., Santa Cruz CVC, 1211 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz
Sept 18	Coastal Cleanup Day
Sept 18	Ocean's Fair in San Simeon 10:00 a.m2:00 p.m.
Sept 20	SEP Meeting at the Seymour Discovery Center, 3:30 p.m5:30 p.m.
Sept 21	CWG Meeting, 9:30 a.m12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room
OCTOBER	
Oct 1	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting at the Big Sur Lodge
Oct 19	CWG Meeting, 9:30 a.m12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room
NOVEMBER	
Nov 15	SEP Meeting at ESNERR, 3:30 p.m5:30 p.m.
Nov 16	CWG Meeting, 9:30 a.m12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room
Nov 17	BTAP Meeting, 7:30 a.m9:30 a.m., Monterey Bay Aquarium
Nov 19	RAP Meeting at Hopkins Marine Station
DECEMBER	
Dec 3	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting at Coastanoa, Pescadero



Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:

http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory.html

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at: http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit: http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/internship.html

Sign up for the MBNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming Sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its Working Groups: http://montereybay.noaa.gov/discussiongroups/disgroups.html.

MBNMS Staff

William Douros – Sanctuary Superintendent Holly Price – Acting Superintendent and Resource Protection Coordinator

Andrew DeVogelaere - Research Coordinator

Erica Burton – Research Assistant

Irina Kogan - Research Fellow

Steve Lonhart – SIMoN Scientist

Jean de Marignac - SIMoN Scientist

Chad King – SIMoN Data Analyst

Josh Pederson - SIMoN Outreach Specialist

Dawn Hayes - Education & Outreach Coordinator

Liz Love – Education Specialist

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Michelle Templeton – MERITO Program Manager

Cristy Cassel – Bilingual Education Specialist

Claudia Pineda - Bilingual Education Specialist

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Deirdre Hall – Permit Coordinator

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Chris Coburn – Water Quality Protection Program Director

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